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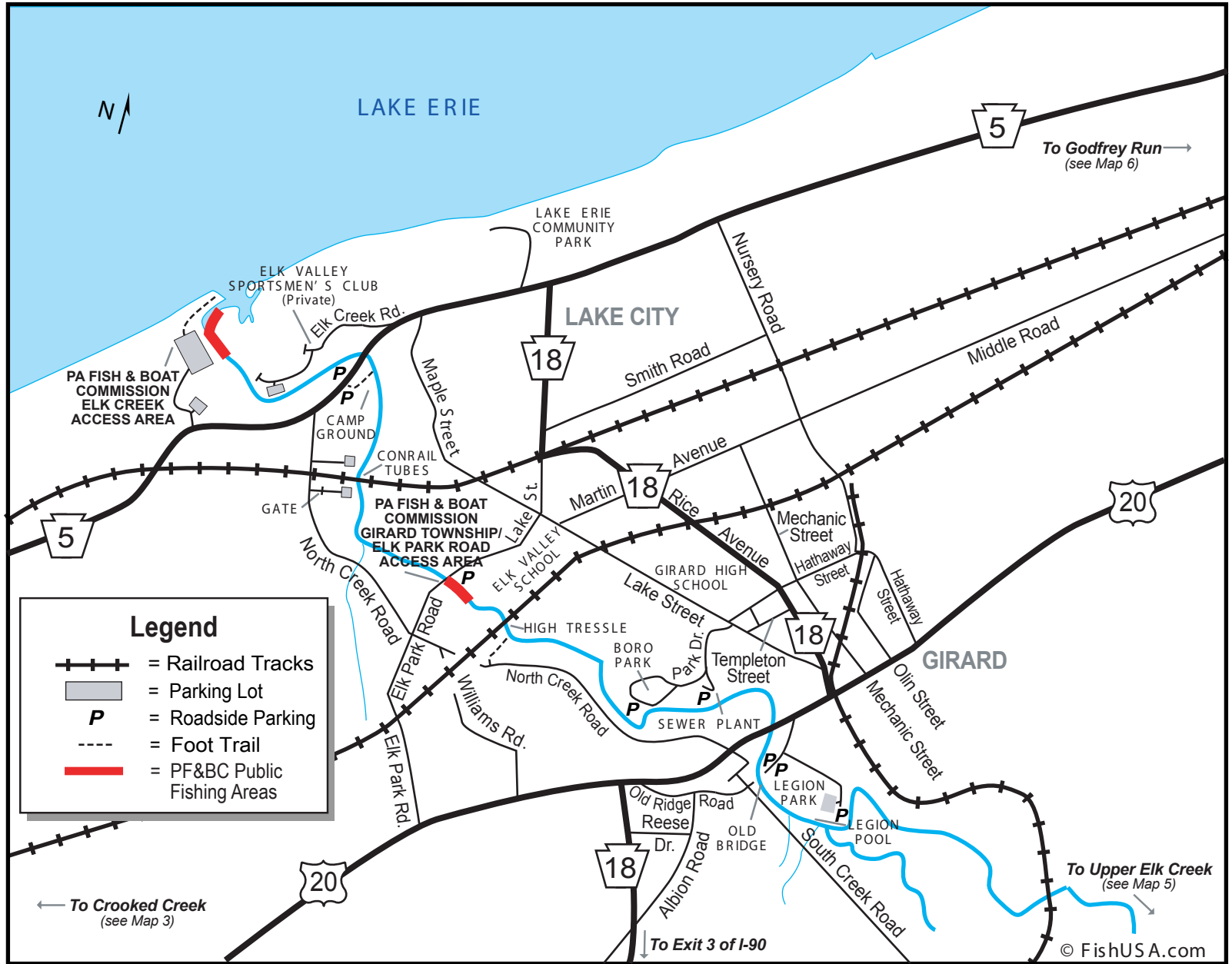
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Map 4 - Lower Elk Creek



Legend	
	= Railroad Tracks
	= Parking Lot
	= Roadside Parking
	= Foot Trail
	= PF&BC Public Fishing Areas

Maps available online at www.fisherie.com

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Map 4 - Lower Elk Creek



Elk Creek is the largest and most popular of the Erie County tributary streams. It enters Lake Erie about one-half mile west of State Route 18 in Girard Township. Its headwaters are south of the Town of McKean. It flows under Interstate 79 at the McKean exit (Exit 174), under West Road (SR 3020) in the Village of Sterrettania, under State Route 98 at Folly's End Campground south of the Town of Fairview, then northwest through a mostly wooded areas passing under Interstate 90, then north under U.S. Route 20 in Girard and under U.S. Route 5 in Lake City and on to Lake Erie. Elk Creek is stocked with steelhead and brown trout and is an approved trout water.

Elk Creek Access Area

The PF&BC has a sizable parking and picnic area at the mouth of Elk. There are outhouses, covered picnic facilities and paved parking lots. There is also a boat launch at the access area for small boats. The mouth access area can be reached from the road located part-way up the hill on Route 5 west of Route 18. The PF&BC has installed a parking lot on property it acquired on the east side of Elk Creek just south of the mouth. Turn off Route 5 at the Elk Creek Sport Store and drive north toward the Lake to the bottom of the hill. The parking lot will be on your left. This provides access to the east side of the lower reaches of Elk Creek. In the early fall, when there has been little rain and the creeks are low and clear, the mouth of Elk is very popular for steelhead.

There are a number of access areas from Route 5 south to Girard. Almost all of the parking and access upstream from the Elk Creek Access Area is on private lands. Parking and fishing is provided only by owner permission, which can be withdrawn at any time. Please respect their property.

Upstream the creek runs through property owned by Fairview Evergreen Nurseries. Although this is private land, the Nurseries do not post it and currently permit angler access. There is a place to park next to the creek just south of the Conrail tubes beneath Route 5. There is also access off North Creek Road both north and south of the railroad tracks.

Girard Township/Elk Park Road Access Area

This public access area is located off of Elk Park Road just south of the bridge in Girard Township. This 8 acre site was developed through a cooperative effort between the PF&BC and Girard Township, using Lake Erie Permit monies. The improvements at the site allow excellent parking for visiting anglers. Although there is only 300 feet of access at this area, fishing is currently allowed both upstream and downstream of this location. The area upstream of this access is owned by Mercyhurst College and ties into other areas such as Girard Borough Park.

Further upstream the creek can be accessed from the Girard Boro Park. There is a small and not-too-well marked access road off Lake Street in southern Girard. This access road splits and goes to both a park (this road is sometimes blocked-off), and a sewage treatment plant. You can park at the either location and access the creek.

Another very popular spot is the "American Legion hole." This is a good but slow-moving and heavily fished hole. It is accessed by taking a spur road which angles off to the south from Route 20 just west of Girard as you start down the hill toward Elk Creek. There are signs on Route 20 for several businesses (including "Reddog Industries") that are located on this small road. Follow the road to the left, then past the industries to its end. The American Legion park is on the right, and the road continues straight down into a dirt parking lot along the creek. A short path leads downstream to this popular hole.

All other locations on Lower Elk Creek are on private property. Stream access is still allowed in some areas. Please ask for permission to fish if you are unsure of access rights.